Work on NH-7

508. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the works completed on National Highway (NH)-7, so far;

(b) the details of works pending on NH-7 and details of the requests received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for completion of these pending works;

(c) the reasons for pendency of work on the highway; and

(d) by when these pending works are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) 33 works costing Rs. 600.00 crores have been completed on NH-7.

(b) and (c) Three contracts of four-laning of NH-7, one contract each in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have been delayed due to problems associated in acquisition of land, shifting of utilities, delay in construction of Road Over Bridge (ROB) and poor performance of contractors. However, no request related to pending works has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) The pending works are likely to be completed by June 2008.

Upgradation of NH-17 in Goa

509. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been achieved towards the upgradation/widening of National Highway-17 in Goa;

(b) whether the preliminary work in this connection has started;

(c) whether the required plans, approvals, technical sanctions, estimates have been conducted;

(d) the expenditure involved in the project;

(e) the time, by when the work on the project would be started;

(f) whether it is a fact that Goa despite being an international tourist destination, the work regarding NH-17 is not getting priority; and

(g) if not, the reasons for delays in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The work of Consultancy services for preparation of Feasibility *cum* Preliminary Design for upgradation/widening to 4/6 lane of NH-17 in the State of Goa has commenced from 3rd September, 2007 under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase III being implemented by the National Highways Authority of India.

(b) The preliminary works like land acquisition, shifting of utilities etc. will be taken up after finalization of the alignment for upgradation/widening.